



# ARIZONA MILITARY REGIONAL COMPATIBILITY PROJECT

WESTERN MARICOPA COUNTY/LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

Project Update #5, October 15, 2002

The Western Maricopa County/Luke Air Force Base component of the Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project is an effort to identify permanent resolutions to land use compatibility issues around Luke Air Force Base through collaborative effort and strong implementation. This update is one of a series that will be distributed throughout the project to keep stakeholders and other interested parties up to date on project progress.

## **WEST VALLEY & LUKE REGIONAL LAND USE OPEN HOUSE**

The West Valley & Luke Regional Land Use Open House, held on September 14, 2002, at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona, was an overwhelming success with over 350 attendees. Various residents, landowners, business owners, and developers, along with representatives from the Arizona Department of Commerce, Luke Air Force Base, Maricopa County, and several West Valley communities joined together to discuss West Valley urban development issues that affect the long-term mission of Luke Air Force Base. Informational booths at the Open House addressed airspace, noise, safety, laws and legislation, land economics, and land use. Experts in each of these areas were on hand to answer questions and collect public comments. Community input from the Open House is being incorporated into alternative scenarios and implementation strategies that are currently under development. We would like to extend a special thank you to Fighter Country Partnership and Sky Harbor Airport for sponsoring the refreshments.

## **MEDIA RESPONSE TO OPEN HOUSE**

The Open House saw significant coverage by regional media outlets leading up to and following the event. Media attendance at the event included KGLN-TV Channel 11 (Glendale), PHX Channel 11 (Phoenix), *The Arizona Republic*, *The Daily News-Sun*, *The Glendale Star*, *Peoria Times*, and *West Valley View*. Coverage by these media outlets was essential to reaching an audience beyond the more than 350 people that attended the Open House. The print media outlets represented at the Open House have a combined circulation of more than 650,000. Such extensive media coverage indicates the high level of interest in the Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project throughout the state. Working with the regional media will continue to be a key component of the dissemination of information related to the project. Media representatives that would like to obtain more information about the project or request a comprehensive media kit should contact Deb Sydenham, Project Director, at (602) 280-8114.

## **NEWS FROM WASHINGTON D.C.**

An Arizona delegation traveled to our nation's capital in mid-September for several meetings with the Department of Defense and the Air Force. The primary messenger was Governor Jane Dee Hull, who articulated Arizona's efforts in preserving the missions of our military facilities and emphasized our desire to continue in a leadership role for other states to emulate. Initial meetings were held with Mr. Ray DuBois, Undersecretary of Defense for Installations, and Environment; Mr. Nelson Gibbs, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics; Mr. Fred Kuhn, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations; and, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Director, Office of Economic Adjustment, Office of the Secretary of Defense. A separate meeting was held with Dr. James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, to discuss Luke Air Force Base and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in particular, and Arizona's efforts to develop land use compatibility guidance. Participants also included Governor Hull, Goodyear Mayor Bill Arnold, Tucson Mayor Robert Walkup, Supervisor Max Wilson, Pinnacle West CEO Bill Post, Sky Harbor Airport Director Dave Krietor, and Arizona Department of Commerce Planning Office Director Deb Sydenham among others. Dr. Roche commented that Arizona was taking "one of the most thoughtful approaches seen thus far and is certainly a leader in the

legislative area.” The Washington trip was a clear success and was the first time an Arizona Governor delivered a personal message regarding the state’s commitment to its military facilities. Our collaboration and partnership with the Department of Defense and specific service branches is a positive one that continues to build momentum as we pursue the goal of maximum mission capability and flexibility for the future.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **Release Draft Regional Compatibility Plan Alternatives**

The Western Maricopa/Luke Air Force Base Draft Regional Compatibility Plan Alternatives will be made available in early December 2002. The community is encouraged to review the draft alternatives and provide comments to the Arizona Department of Commerce.

### **West Valley & Luke Regional Land Use Open House II**

The Arizona Department of Commerce is hosting a second open house on December 14 to present, discuss, and gather input on the Western Maricopa/Luke Air Force Base Draft Regional Compatibility Plan Alternatives. The event will be held between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at a location to be announced in the next Project Update.

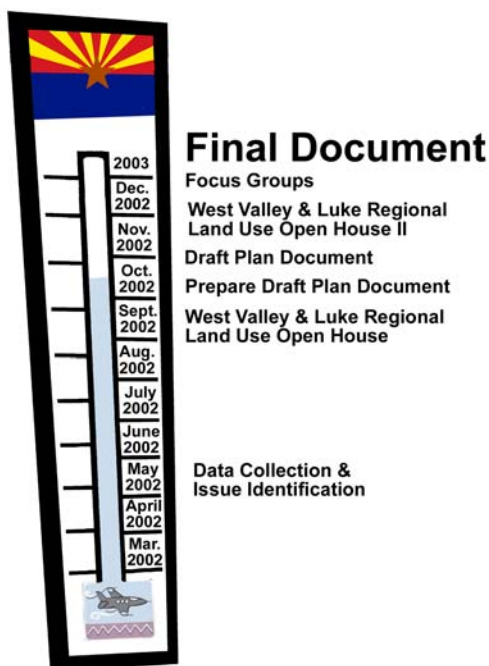
### **Focus Group Review of the Draft Regional Compatibility Plan Alternatives**

To facilitate input on the Western Maricopa/Luke Air Force Base Draft Regional Compatibility Plan Alternatives, the Arizona Department of Commerce is hosting six focus group sessions. These sessions will be held in the West Valley on December 16, 17, and 18. The groups will be asked to select or define their preferred alternative. Each session is focused on a stakeholder group; however, anyone wishing to participate is invited to attend. The focus group sessions will be held at the City of Goodyear City Hall on the following dates:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Workshop Participants/Focus</b>
Dec.16	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Agricultural Landowners
Dec.16	1:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Home Builders/Developers
Dec.17	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Political Jurisdictions/Agency Staff
Dec.17	1:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Political Jurisdictions/Agency Decision Makers
Dec.17	6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Business Community
Dec.18	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Luke Air Force Base

### **Release Final Regional Compatibility Plan**

After public review and comment, the Arizona Department of Commerce will prepare the Final Western Maricopa/Luke Air Force Base Regional Compatibility Plan for release in spring 2003.



## **PROJECT PROGRESS**

Over the next three months, ongoing tasks will include development of land use scenarios and implementation strategies, and release of the Draft Regional Compatibility Plan Alternatives

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT**

To find information, provide feedback, or ask questions, please visit the project web site via [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com), or contact Deb Sydenham, AICP, Director, Community Planning Office, Arizona Department of Commerce at (602) 280-8114 or [debs@azcommerce.com](mailto:debs@azcommerce.com).